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California State Senate

CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON ELECTIONS

SENATOR
LONI HANCOCK
NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



April 29, 2010

Honorable Jeff Ira, Mayor of Redwood City
City Hall
P.O. Box 391
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94064

Dear Mayor Ira and Members of the City Council:

I am writing as a State Legislator, former local elected official, and long-time advocate for San Francisco Bay. I did not wish to take a position on the development proposal put forward by DMB Associates for Redwood City's restorable salt ponds until I had an opportunity to study it, which I have done, and am writing to urge you to reject the proposal.

My own city, the City of Berkeley, once considered a similar proposal -- to develop our shoreline infill land with a shopping center and housing. After considerable community debate and discussion, we decided to protect the open space. It turned out to be a wise decision for both the community and its economy. Today the established Eastshore State Park, and the limited but appropriate development of an adjacent Marina, bring outstanding recreational opportunities to hundreds of thousands of people a year and protect spectacular views of San Francisco Bay and important natural resources. It makes Berkeley a destination that has enhanced the local economy as well as the quality of life for all Bay Area residents.

A similar protection of open space is possible in Redwood City. Redwood City's salt ponds are already designated as a priority area for addition to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

With very good reason and a sense of urgency, we stopped filling in the bay and salt ponds many decades ago, and we still need to restore damaged habitat wherever possible. The DMB proposal to build 12,000 homes on a part of the shoreline that can be restored to productive tidal marsh would be a step backward for the entire Bay Area environment and economy. It is especially inappropriate to build in the path of rising sea levels, and away from the transit corridors that will be the focus of sustainable development. The State's Climate Adaptation Strategy states that California should



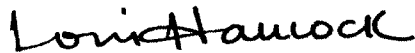
prohibit "development of undeveloped, vulnerable shoreline areas containing critical habitat or opportunities for habitat creation," and the DMB site fits that description precisely.

I have considered whether it is "premature" to oppose the project because an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has not yet been prepared. However, CEQA explicitly entitles any city to reject a project without conducting an EIR when that project is inconsistent with a city's general plan and zoning, has obvious flaws, or is unlikely to receive regulatory approval. This project meets that criteria and Redwood City should feel no obligation to formally study any proposal to build on an area its general plan designates as Tidal Plain where development is prohibited.

No EIR is needed to establish that building on this site is contrary to state environmental policy and the city's general plan. All of the site can be restored to important wetlands habitat, and is a priority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to include in the bay's wildlife refuge.

I join with the other local and state elected officials around the bay and ask that you and the city council reject this proposal. If there is anything I can do to help in restoring the salt marsh and adjacent habitat, and securing its inclusion in the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Hancock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LONI HANCOCK

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



Jared Huffman
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 6TH DISTRICT

CHAIR, Water Parks and
Wildlife

COMMITTEES
Natural Resources
Utilities & Commerce
Assembly Budget Committee
Subcommittee No. 3 on
Resources

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a06>

March 21, 2010

Honorable Jeff Ira, Mayor
City Hall
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94064

Dear Mayor Ira and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to express my opposition to the massive development proposed by DMB Associates and Cargill to place up to 12,000 homes on restorable salt ponds in Redwood City.

This proposal is unacceptable on many levels, especially for those of us who are committed to protecting and restoring San Francisco Bay and its wetland habitat, stepping up to the challenges of global warming, and sustainably managing California's limited water supplies. The retired salt ponds on San Francisco Bay must not be seen as land to be paved – they are part of San Francisco Bay and should be restored to tidal marsh for wildlife habitat, natural flood protection for our communities, cleaner water, and recreation areas for everyone to enjoy. Much has been lost over the years, and the habitat and water quality of the Bay is so degraded, that we cannot squander the few opportunities we still have to make improvements.

Building on salt ponds makes even less sense in light of the reality of rising sea levels. Indeed, it flies in the face of state climate change policy. The California Climate Adaptation Strategy just adopted by Governor Schwarzenegger underscores that the state should be “prohibiting development of undeveloped, vulnerable shoreline areas containing critical habitat or opportunities for habitat creation,” an accurate description of this project site. Consistent with this forward-thinking policy, ponds along the Napa River, just like those in Redwood City, are being restored to tidal marsh habitat for critical endangered species right now by the California Department of Fish and Game.

I am also very skeptical of DMB Associates' proposal for an unprecedented, convoluted sequence of water transfers from the Kern River to supply 30,000 new city residents, which is legally suspect and would require approval from multiple agencies. The idea that there is a substantial amount of water in Kern County that is unneeded and available for sale without redirected impacts is fanciful. In reality, California's future water reliability and the Delta ecosystem will require fewer diversions of water from the Central Valley, not more. Indeed, California water policy seeks to promote greater regional

Letter to Mayor Ira and City Council Members

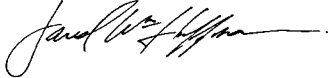
March 21, 2010

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self-reliance and to discourage reliance on imported water. The Legislature specifically codified a policy to reduce dependence on Delta water exports last year. There is no question that places like Kern County that rely significantly on Delta diversions will see increased pressure on their existing supplies in the years ahead. It is neither responsible nor realistic for DMB Associates to premise a huge urban development in the Bay Area on an elaborate scheme to import Kern County water.

For all of these reasons, I urge the city not only to reject the DMB Associates' proposal but to affirmatively discourage further consideration of development on its salt ponds. Further consideration of the project, including engaging in a costly and divisive CEQA study, would only reinforce the dangerous fallacy that what is left of the Bay is expendable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Huffman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JARED HUFFMAN

Assemblymember, 6th District

May 3, 2010

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF REDWOOD CITY:

San Francisco Bay is our natural treasure, and it is essential that we protect and restore it to ensure that the Bay Area is a healthy place to live.

The era of filling in San Francisco Bay is over – we stopped that destruction forty years ago. The bay's salt ponds provide the best opportunity to restore a portion of the 150,000 of acres of valuable wetlands destroyed by previous generations.

But now, a developer wants to turn back the clock, by proposing a massive development on 1,400 acres of restorable salt ponds in Redwood City. Nothing so breathtaking in size or misguided in scope has been proposed in half a century.

Salt ponds are not land to be paved – they are part of San Francisco Bay to be restored to tidal marsh for wildlife habitat, natural flood protection for our communities, cleaner water, and recreation areas for everyone to enjoy.

The Bay Area should accommodate growth with truly sustainable development that preserves the open space needed for our economy and quality of life. The Bay Area requires more housing near existing transit corridors and services, like in downtown Redwood City.

As current and former elected officials, we understand the pressures cities face and how essential San Francisco Bay is to our region. The bay belongs to all of us, and we all must protect it. We urge you to join us in actively opposing this project to develop on San Francisco Bay salt ponds.

Sincerely,

[Affiliations for Identification Purposes Only]

Margaret Abe-Koga
Councilmember, City of Mountain View

Susan Adams
Supervisor, County of Marin

Tom Ammiano
Member, California State Assembly (District 13)
Former President, Board of Supervisors, City
and County of San Francisco

Jesse Arreguin
Councilmember, City of Berkeley

John Avalos
Supervisor, City and County of San Francisco

Jim Beall
Member, California State Assembly (District 24)
Former Supervisor, County of Santa Clara
Former Councilmember, City of San Jose

Mary Jo Borak
Former Mayor, City of Menlo Park

Del Britton
Mayor, City of St. Helena

Ronit Bryant
Mayor, City of Mountain View

Patrick Burt
Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Thomas K. Butt
Councilmember, City of Richmond

Laurie Capitelli
Councilmember, City of Berkeley

Efren Carrillo
Supervisor, County of Sonoma

Keith Carson
Supervisor, County of Alameda

David Casas
Mayor, City of Los Altos
President, Santa Clara County Cities
Association

Judy Chirco
Vice Mayor, City of San Jose

David Chiu
President, Board of Supervisors, City and
County of San Francisco

Kansen Chu
Councilmember, City of San Jose

Richard Cline
Mayor, City of Menlo Park

Andy Cohen
Councilmember and former Mayor, City of
Menlo Park

Paul Collachi
Former Mayor, City of Menlo Park

George Comstock
Former Mayor, Town of Portola Valley

Kirke Comstock
Former Mayor, City of Palo Alto, and
Former Mayor, Town of Portola Valley

Ellen Corbett
California State Senator, District 10
Former mayor, City of San Leandro

Sue Crane
Former mayor, Town of Portola Valley

Sharon Crull
Councilmember, City of St. Helena

Shirley Dean
Former Mayor, City of Berkeley

Ron Dellums
Mayor, City of Oakland

Maryann Moise Derwin
Councilmember, Town of Portola Valley

Peter Drekmeier
Former Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Ted Driscoll
Vice Mayor, Town of Portola Valley

Jim Dobbie
Vice Mayor, Town of Atherton

Malcolm Dudley
Former Mayor, Town of Atherton

Sid Espinosa
Vice Mayor, City of Palo Alto

A. Peter Evans,
Councilmember, City of East Palo Alto

Coralin Feierbach
Vice Mayor, City of Belmont

Kelly Fergusson
Councilmember, City of Menlo Park

Mike Ferreira
Former Mayor, City of Half Moon Bay

Bob Franklin
Vice President, BART Board of Directors

John M. Gioia
Chair, Board of Supervisors, Contra Costa
County

Paul Goercke
Former Mayor, City of Brisbane

Matt Gonzalez
Former President, Board of Supervisors, City
and County of San Francisco

Jim Grady
Former Mayor, City of Half Moon Bay

Janet Gray Hayes
Former Mayor, City of San Jose

Mary Henderson
Former Councilmember, City of Redwood City

Carol Ann Hodges
Former Mayor, Town of Woodside

James Janz
Former Mayor, Town of Atherton

Beverly Johnson
Mayor, City of Alameda

Cal Jones
Former Mayor, City of Menlo Park

Ash Kalra
Councilmember, City of San Jose

Rebecca Kaplan
Councilmember, City of Oakland

Will Kennedy
Councilmember, City of Santa Clara

Pat Kernighan
Councilmember, City of Oakland

Mike Kerns
Supervisor, County of Sonoma

Chuck Kinney
Former Mayor, City of Menlo Park

Steve Kinsey
Supervisor, County of Marin

Yoriko Kishimoto
Former Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Larry Klein
Councilmember and former Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Barbara Kondylis
Supervisor, County of Solano

Alice Lai-Bitker
Supervisor, County of Alameda

Rich Larsen
Councilmember, Town of Los Altos Hills

Mark Leno
California State Senator, District 3
Former member, Board of Supervisors, City and County of San Francisco

Leland D. Levy
Former Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Sam Liccardo
Councilmember, City of San Jose

Robert Lieber
Councilmember, City of Albany

Sally J. Lieber
Former Mayor, City of Mountain View
Former California State Assemblymember
(District 22)

Doug Linney
Board President, East Bay Municipal Utility District

Evan Low
Mayor, City of Campbell

Eric Mar
Supervisor, City and County of San Francisco

Christopher Martin
Councilmember, Town of Ross

Peter Mason
Councilmember, Town of Woodside

Paul N. "Pete" McCloskey
Former Member of U.S. Congress, District 11

Charles McGlashan
Supervisor, County of Marin

Dianne McKenna
Former Member, Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara
Former Mayor, City of Sunnyvale

Gayle McLaughlin
Mayor, City of Richmond

Richard T. Merk
Former Mayor, Town of Portola Valley

Julia Miller
Former Councilmember, City of Sunnyvale

Ross Mirkarimi
Member, Board of Supervisors, City and County of San Francisco

Jean (John) Mordo
Councilmember, Town of Los Altos Hills

Becky Morgan
Former California State Senator, District 11

Jack Morris
Former Mayor, City of Menlo Park

Dena Mossar
Former Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Nancy Nadel
Councilmember, City of Oakland

Madison Nguyen
Councilmember, City of San Jose

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Former Mayor, Town of Portola Valley

Michael O'Malley
Former Mayor, Town of Los Altos Hills

Enid Pearson
Former Vice Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Aaron Peskin
Former President, Board of Supervisors, City
and County of San Francisco
Chair, San Francisco Democratic Party

Lee Pierce
Former Vice Mayor, City of Santa Rosa

Gail Price
Councilmember, City of Palo Alto

Jim Prola
Councilmember, City of San Leandro

Jean Quan
Councilmember, City of Oakland

Emily Renzel
Former Councilmember, City of Palo Alto

John Richards
Councilmember, Town of Portola Valley

Heyward Robinson
Councilmember and former Mayor, City of
Menlo Park

Ron Romines
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Woodside

Deborah Ruddock
Former Mayor, City of Half Moon Bay

Catarina Sanchez
Councilmember, City of St. Helena

Pete Sanchez
Mayor, City of Suisun City

Steve Schmidt
Former Mayor, City of Menlo Park

Bonnie Schoch
Councilmember, City of St. Helena

Nancy Shepherd
Councilmember, City of Palo Alto

Byron Sher
Former Mayor, City of Palo Alto
Former California State Senator, District 11

Jac Siegel
Vice Mayor, City of Mountain View

Jon Silver
Former Mayor, Town of Portola Valley

Eric Sklar
Vice Mayor, City of St. Helena

Ginger Summit
Councilmember, Town of Los Altos Hills

Michael Sweeney
Mayor, City of Hayward

Peggy Thomsen
Councilmember, City of Albany

Jim Thurber
Former Mayor, City of Los Altos

Steve Toben
Mayor, Town of Portola Valley

Cat Tucker
Councilmember, City of Gilroy

Nancy Vian
Former Councilmember, Town of Portola Valley

Clifford Waldeck
Former Mayor, City of Mill Valley

Kris Wang
Mayor, City of Cupertino

Dave Warden
Councilmember, City of Belmont

Dean Warshawsky
Mayor, Town of Los Altos Hills

Susan Wengraf
Councilmember, City of Berkeley

Joanne Wile
Mayor, City of Albany

Christine Wozniak
Mayor, City of Belmont

Ken Yeager
President, Board of Supervisors, County of
Santa Clara

Yiaway Yeh
Councilmember, City of Palo Alto